

REMARKS:

Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The status of the claims is as follows:

Amended:	1, 6, 7, 9
Cancelled:	None
New:	10-19
Pending:	1-19

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Support for the amendments is either apparent, or is as described in the text below. Claim 1 has been amended to positively recite the fixed loop feature. It is respectfully submitted that that the claim is of the same scope as previously, though in better form. The language in the last three paragraphs of the specification, for example, provides further support for the language concerning the adaptation of the fixed strap. Claim 6 is amended to fix an error in antecedent. The new claims are based on language in prior claims, though with respect to different base claims. No new matter is added.

Objections

Replacement drawing sheets are presented to correct the mis-numbering identified by the Examiner. A new title and abstract are provided to address the objections to same.

Claim Rejections Based on Prior Art

The claims stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102(e), 102(a) and 103(a). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

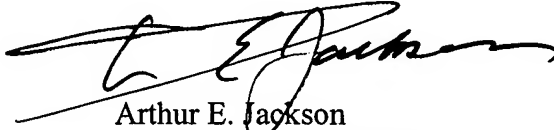
All of the rejections appear to have been based on an alleged teaching of a strap. But none of the cited documents (US 6,295,700, US 2,592,696, US 2,678,542) has a fixed loop independent of primary adjustable loop. As these documents do not suggest such a fixed loop, they certainly do not disclose or suggest particular features of a fixed loop.

Applicant reserves the right to prove prior invention should the need arise.

Conclusion

In light of these amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the Amendment should be entered, the rejections should be withdrawn, and that the application is in condition for allowance.²

Respectfully submitted,



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